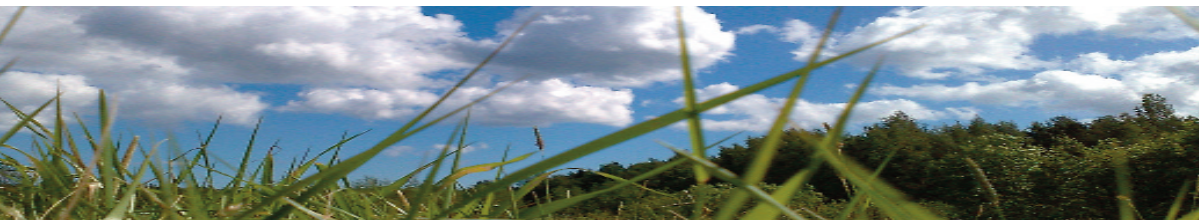


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# Energy and Environment Quarterly

U.S. Department of Commerce; Office of Administrative Services; Office of Real Estate, Policy, and Major Programs; Energy, Environmental and Transportation Division

## DOC Celebrates Earth Day

### HCHB Vendor Fair

The Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) held a vendor fair in honor of Earth Day. Local vendors of environmentally friendly products presented their wares, including gift wrapping made of recycled materials, energy conservation services, and environmentally friendly food products. There were also children's activities in honor of Bring Your Child to Work Day, and the Energy, Environmental, and Transportation Division gave away 200 sycamore tree seedlings to staff. 



### 2010 DOC Environmental Stewardship Awards

The Energy, Environmental, and Transportation Division (EETD) hosted the third annual Environmental Stewardship Awards Ceremony at the Herbert C. Hoover Building on Earth Day.

(NCCOS) received the award for its outstanding electronics stewardship program. The program has exceeded federal targets for the purchase of energy-efficient electronic equipment, reduced greenhouse gas emissions,



left to right: Office of Administrative Services Director Mary Pleffner, NCCOS winners Jay Lewis, and Bernie Gottholm, NOS winner Jean Duroske, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration John Charles

The Environmental Stewardship Awards Program recognizes exceptional achievements of its employees for efforts that significantly contribute to or promote environmental stewardship within the DOC environmental, energy, or transportation programs.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Ocean Service/National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

and is projected to save thousands of dollars in lifecycle energy costs.


The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA's) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) Environmental Team won for its development of an innovative program to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) under severe time and logistical constraints. BTOP's NEPA

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program achieved the President's vision of quickly infusing the nation with stimulus funding, making great strides in reducing the "digital divide" that exists in this country.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration John Charles presented each winning team with an award. Acting NCCOS Director Dr. Russell Callender accepted the award on behalf of the NCCOS team, and NTIA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information Anna Gomez accepted on behalf of the BTOP team.

For more information on the DOC Environmental Stewardship Awards please contact Greg Falzetta, Chief, EETD, at 202-482-1080 or [gfalzetta@doc.gov](mailto:gfalzetta@doc.gov). 

## DOC Celebrates Earth Day, continued

### NOAA Cleans Up

At NOAA's Western Regional Center in north Seattle, volunteers from various line offices scattered across the grounds on Earth Day to remove trash and debris. The center sits on the shore of Lake Washington, and the NOAA dive team even delved the waters' depths to clean the lake bottom.

The Northwest Fisheries Green Team spearheaded this Earth Day event. The group explores and implements environmentally friendly ways to operate the



*The NOAA Dive Team removes debris from Lake Washington*


Northwest region's National Marine Fisheries Service facilities.

"It was a treat to have the Dive Team scouring the bottom of Lake Washington while we were finding treasures along the shore!" said Mike Grady, Northwest Fisheries Green Team lead. "Everyone who participated deserves special thanks for making our small piece of the world a better place."

The 20 participants collected more than 20 bags of trash and about five bags of cans, bottles and other recyclables. There were some noteworthy finds: a

thigh from a mannequin, a GPS unit, and a manhole cover!

Grady sponsored a free lunch in the NOAA cafeteria for the person who contributed the most to the cleanup. Chris Collier of the Fisheries Northwest Regional Office earned the lunch for carrying the extremely heavy manhole cover from the shoreline to the recycle bin.

At the nearby Northwest Fisheries Science Center a small group of staff from the Manchester Research Station joined forces with its neighbors at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 Laboratory to participate in a Clam Bay beach cleanup. Clam Bay is the body of water in Puget Sound that forms the eastern property line of NOAA, EPA, the U.S. Navy and Washington State Parks. Several staff from NOAA and EPA joined in this cleanup along its shore. Armed with garbage bags and gloves, NOAA and EPA staff covered about 2 miles of beach and recovered over two truckloads of debris from the beaches. 



*NOAA's Mike Grady cleans up*

### PTO Hosts Green Fair

To encourage its employees to adopt more sustainable lifestyles at work and at home, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office held its second annual green fair on April 21 at the agency's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

Employees engaged with representatives from a broad range of local and federal organizations with expertise in energy efficiency and conservation. Exhibitors included Dominion Virginia Power, EPA Energy Star, City of Alexandria Transportation



Division, Washington Gas, Telework Exchange, WMATA, Commuter Connections, and others. The fair also featured two electric-powered vehicles provided by Native American Bio-Fuels International Solutions, Inc.

Based on this year's huge success, the agency looks forward to continuing this effort in future years.

### Did You Know...

- **HCHB now recycles packing peanuts.** Please bring your unwanted packing peanuts to the HCHB Mail and Services Division, room 2500, rather than throwing them in the trash. If you need packing peanuts, please stop by the mail room and pick some up for free.
- An estimated **58 million cell phones are unused**, in storage. If these phones were reused or recycled, enough energy would be saved to power 10,690 homes for a year. You can drop off unwanted cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDA's) for donation or recycling in HCHB room 1036.
- The annual **GovEnergy conference** will take place from August 15-18 in Dallas, Texas. This is a great opportunity to learn about best management practices for energy and network with energy professionals. Go to <http://www.govenergy.com/> for more information.
- You can buy fresher, more sustainably produced food by shopping at **farmer's markets**. If you work at the HCHB, stop by the market on 13th & Pennsylvania Ave. NW Fridays from 11 am to 3 pm. There are also markets at Vermont & H Street NW and 8th & E Street NW Thursday evenings from 3 to 7 pm.

## Need a Vehicle? GSA Short Term Rental Program

Is your office in need of an easy and hassle-free vehicle rental? If so, then the General Services Administration (GSA) has just the program for you: the Short Term Rental Program (STR). GSA provides a variety of right-sized vehicles to federal clients for rental periods of 1 to 60 days. The STR is the perfect solution if your office mission involves seasonal work, a special event, appointments away from your duty station, or other short-term travel.


There are many reasons to use the STR program instead of purchasing a vehicle for occasional use by office staff. Purchasing fewer vehicles will reduce fuel use and other vehicle-associated environmental impacts. Your vehicle needs will change slightly with every trip. The STR provides vehicles with the lowest available rates as well as a wide selection of vehicles in all sizes, ranging from the popular sedan type to mini-vans, SUVs, trailers, refrigerated trucks and

more! Fleet service cards accompany every STR rental to make gasoline purchases; all rental fees and fuel charges appear on your regular monthly GSA Fleet bill; and there are NO extra fees for additional drivers! Finally, your rental vehicle will be delivered directly to your door anywhere in the U.S.

Submitting a STR request is simple—just call the STR Program at 1-866-886-1232 (M-F, 7 am to 5 pm CST) with basic information about the



driver, office, and rental needs, as well as the full GSA Fleet customer number against which rental charges will be billed (in the form of Region-FMC-00-BOAC-Serial). The typical turnaround time is 48 hours or less!

For more information about the STR Program please contact DOC Fleet Manager Eston Lewis at 202-482-2131. 

## Annette Island Weather Service Office Recognized by DOE *You Have the Power* Campaign

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Annette Island, Alaska, Weather Service Office & Upper Air Inflation Shelter (WSO) has been recognized by the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) *You Have the Power* campaign. The campaign is a poster series recognizing the innovative energy and water-saving practices and technologies implemented by Federal workers.

The WSO is located in a remote area on Annette Island, and the only water system available is in a town 5 miles to the north. Taking advantage of the island's heavy rainfall (110 inches per year), John Capra, a plumbing designer for Gibbens Drake Scott, developed a unique rainwater collection system to support the WSO.

The collection system incorporates multiple filters to ensure the quality of the water. The first filter removes leaves and other debris when the rainwater enters the downspout. A second filter then removes the smaller particles of dirt. The system transfers the water inside the building to a large holding tank where it is cleaned for the third time by a floating filter. From the tank, the water is pumped to the pressure system and is filtered by a 20 and 5 micron system in sequence. Finally, the water is zapped with ultraviolet light to destroy any remaining bacteria. Once it has completed the filtration cycle, the non-potable water is distributed to low-flow sinks, toilets and the shower.

"With water restrictions in a building of this size, we really had no other option than to make the most of the resources available," said

Capra. "In this instance we were able to create an entire plumbing system using rainwater."


The rainwater collection system is only one of the building's sustainable features. To minimize energy use, a heat pump is incorporated into the mechanical system rather than the traditional air conditioning unit, and motion sensors control the interior lighting. The mechanical and electrical systems along with the architectural features produce a 15 percent reduction in the building's design energy cost compared to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Standard 90.1 regulations for energy cost budgets. The heat pumps also use environmentally



Part of the rainwater collection system at Annette Island WSO

friendly refrigerants that are free of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and halons.

These achievements earned the Annette Island WSO U.S. Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

A poster featuring this project will be developed and distributed to DOC facilities in time for Energy Awareness Month in October. For more information on the Annette Island WSO's rainwater collection system, please contact DOC Energy Program Manager Bob Scinta at 202-482-3114. 

## NIST Boulder Saves with LED Lights



Electrical worker John Gabriel shows off a new LED sign

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)'s Boulder campus recently saved thousands of dollars by replacing the incandescent light bulbs in


its illuminated exit signs with energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.

Illuminated exit signs are an important legal requirement throughout the NIST Boulder campus. Exit signs operate 24 hours per day and consume large amounts of energy to operate. In June of 2009 NIST replaced all 47 two-bulb incandescent exit sign lights on the Boulder campus with new energy-efficient LED signs. The new signs consume 80% less energy than the old signs, saving NIST 14,382

KWh and \$1,128 in FY2009 alone. This equates to a payback period of nine years and projected annual savings of 57,528 KWh and \$4,512 for FY2010 and beyond. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies calculator, this equates to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45.6 tons per year or removing eight passenger cars from the road.

In addition to energy and cost savings, the LED bulbs last over three times as long as traditional bulbs,

reducing waste and the need for costly maintenance. The LED signs are also brighter than the old signs, increasing visibility and enhancing safety during emergencies.

This project demonstrates that DOC facilities can realize large energy savings through relatively simple measures. For more information on this and other energy-saving projects at DOC, contact the DOC Energy Program Manager, Bob Scinta, at 202-482-3114. 

## HCHB Joins Sustainable Sites Initiative

The Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) recently joined the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SSI)'s pilot program. SSI is "an interdisciplinary effort to create voluntary national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices." SSI has been nicknamed "LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] for landscaping." HCHB and over 150 other pilot sites from around the world will compete to win the first SSI certifications in 2012.

As part of the HCHB renovation, the landscaping around the entire building will be altered over the next few years. HCHB will use this opportunity to redesign the landscaping in line with SSI guidelines.

Although you may think that landscaping is

automatically a "green" activity because it involves plants and the outdoors, the environmental impacts of landscaping are numerous. Fertilizer, irrigation, pesticides, and many other



aspects of landscaping can harm humans and the environment.

HCHB's plans for attaining SSI certification include planting exclusively native plants, protecting trees of historic importance, eliminating irrigation, and installing green roofs (roofs planted with vegetation) over the new entrance to the National Aquarium. The plans also call for reducing

the overall area of impervious surface. These improvements will help DOC meet President Obama's goal of reducing water consumption at federal agencies by 2 percent annually and will help to control stormwater runoff in accordance with section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The SSI is a collaboration between The American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden. For more information on the SSI visit [www.sustainablesites.org](http://www.sustainablesites.org) or contact DOC Energy Program Manager Bob Scinta at 202-482-3114. 



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